GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2005
INDO- IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT
Pandey Dr. Laxminarayan;Tripathi Shri Chandramani

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some differences have surfaced between India and Iran over the Gas Pipeline issue;

(a) if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has presented a detailed action plan before Iran regarding the said Gas Pipeline;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the points on which Iran has raised its objection; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clarify the objections raised by Iran ?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.338 FOR ANSWER ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2005 BY DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY AND SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI, M.Ps. REGARDING INDO - IRAN GAS PIPELINE PROJECT.

(a) to (e): No, Sir. There are no differences between India and Iran over the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project.

The Government is discussing the details of the IPI Project with the Governments of Iran and Pakistan. The discussions are progressing satisfactorily. Two separate, Secretary-level Joint Working Groups (JWGs), viz., India - Pakistan JWG and India - Iran Special JWG (SJWG), have been constituted for this purpose. So far, two meetings each of the India - Pakistan JWG and the India - Iran SJWG have been held. The third set of meetings is scheduled for December, 2005. Various technical, commercial, financial, legal and related issues have been discussed at these meetings, which were reviewed by the Indian and Iranian Ministers at their meeting in Riyadh on 19 November on the sidelines of the function to inaugurate the headquarters building of the International Energy Forum Secretariat.

It is envisaged that the project structure and the Framework Agreement for the project will be finalized by early next year.